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H. Res. 461, Establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce

FLOOR SITUATION

On Wednesday, October 7, 2015, the House will consider [H. Res. 461](#), a resolution establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Committee on Rules ordered the resolution favorably reported to the House, without amendment, by voice vote, on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

SUMMARY

H. Res. 461 establishes a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to investigate:

(1) Medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement; (2) Any other relevant matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement; (3) Federal funding and support for abortion providers; (4) The practices of providers of second and third trimester abortions, including partial birth abortion and procedures that may lead to a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; (5) Medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; and, (6) Any changes in law or regulation necessary as a result of any of its findings.

The resolution also: (1) authorizes the select panel to issue a final report of its findings, and any interim reports as may be necessary, regarding its investigation; (2) authorizes the Speaker to designate as chair of the select panel a member elected to the Energy and Commerce Committee; (3) establishes that the select panel shall be composed of not more than 13 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner, appointed by the Speaker, of whom not more than five shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Minority Leader; (4) authorizes the chair of the select panel to issue subpoenas, including for the purpose of taking depositions; and (5) specifies that the select panel shall cease to exist 30 days after filing of its final report.

BACKGROUND

A series of undercover videos published by the [Center for Medical Progress](#) this summer showed senior Planned Parenthood officials reportedly discussing the sale of body parts from aborted fetuses. The House Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform subsequently launched an investigation into these videos. Click [here](#) for more information about the House investigation into Planned Parenthood. The select panel established by H. Res. 461 is designed to further this investigation.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is currently unavailable.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.